



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000

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Ser 00LCA
17U001748G
June 5, 2017

The Honorable Leonard Lance
Member, United States House of
Representatives
425 North Avenue East
Westfield, NJ 07090

Attention: (b) (6)

Dear Representative Lance:

Thank you for your letter of May 15, 2017, to the Chief of Legislative Affairs on behalf of (b) (6), nephew of Ensign Charles W. Benfield, Jr., United States Navy Reserve, Deceased, requesting to have his uncle's remains recovered and interned on the mainland.

Your continued desire to assist (b) (6) is appreciated. Ensign Charles Benfield died in a non-hostile accident on April 6, 1945. The mid-air collision caused his aircraft to fall into the sea and his remains were not recovered. The Navy recognizes that the sea has always been considered a fit and final resting place and will generally not conduct operations with the sole purpose of recovering remains in accordance with Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST) 4740.2G, Salvage and Recovery Program.

I regret a more favorable response is not possible. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if I may be of further assistance in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Congressional Affairs
By direction of the Commander